

## Arlington Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 16, 2013

**Present:** Sheri Baron, Marliiss Briggett , Stacy Davison, George Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Robin Varghese, Sharon Grossman

**Absent:** Christine Carney, Gary Howowitz, Vice Chair Nancy Rhoads, Nancy Sweeney

**Welcome:** The Committee gave a warm welcome to the newest member Sharon Grossman

**Review of Minutes:** The meeting minutes for February, March, and April were approved.

**Invitation to fundraiser event:** Ignite the Fire of Empathy: Playback Theatre”, which was held on June 8, 2013 at the Arlington Center for Yoga.

**Town Meeting:** The commission did not present at the Town Meeting this year. Discussion took place regarding how to present at next year Town Meeting.

**Incidents and Complaints:** Medford resident called regarding a Medford business. Call has been referred to Medford Diversity Director.

The MBTA reached out to the Commission regarding wheelchair accessible cab companies. The Commission has discovered that right now Arlington does not have a cab company with wheelchair accessibility.

**Annual Report :** Discussion regarding reviewing goals for the upcoming year. The commission would like to improve the school liaison program. Meeting with the individual principals to discuss the needs of each school. Presenting at the PTO meetings and School Improvement Council to get the message out that we are another resource for the schools. The list is as follows:

Brackett School- Robin Varghese

Bishop School – Christine Carney

Dallin School- Gary Horowitz

Hardy School – Sheri Baron

High School –

Pierce School – Marlissa Briggett

Stratton School –

Thompson School –

The idea of two commissioners for the high school was presented. Picking a chair for this Sub-committee was tabled until next meeting.

A motion was made and voted unanimously to purchase diversity related books for Thompson School library.

The committee is proud to celebrate its twenty year anniversary this fall. Commissioner Sheri Baron and Stacy Davison have agreed to volunteer to be the sub-committee chair persons for this special celebration. Along with the twenty year anniversary of the commission, it is the ten year anniversary of gay marriage. The commission would like to combine these two events with a celebration. Possible ideas are to invite past commissioners to the event, write something for the advocate highlighting the past twenty years.

In planning for Town Day the commission has decided to continue with the theme of the twenty year celebration. The commission is brain storming ideas of how best to do this. The commission would like a volunteer to be chair person for Town day

The commission in trying to reach out to the community has come up with the idea of speaking at the various clubs and groups in Arlington.

The commission would also like to extend an invitation to the Town Manager to attend a meeting. Also suggested was to have a representative from the police to attend meetings.

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm was made and approved.

*Submitted by:*

*Colleen Tremblay*

*Staff Assistant*